

CLAIMS:

1. An article, comprising a deformation-control member which has a medial section, and a stiffened region;
5 wherein
said stiffened region includes a first array of individual, stiffening elements, and at least a
second array of individual, stiffening elements;
said first array of stiffening elements has a first, convergently arranged nose-end, and a
first, relatively divergently arranged tail-end;
10 said first array of stiffening elements is configured to substantially avoid intersecting in
said medial section of said deformation-control member.
said second array of stiffening elements has a second, convergently arranged nose-end,
and a second, relatively divergently arranged tail-end;
said second array of stiffening elements is configured to substantially avoid intersecting in
15 said medial section of said deformation-control member; and
said second array of stiffening elements have a counter-positioned configuration relative to
the first array of stiffening elements.
2. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein
20 said first nose-end of the first array is positioned toward a central region of the article, and
said first tail-end is positioned toward a first end region of the article;
said second nose-end of the second array is positioned toward the central region of the
article, and said second tail-end is positioned toward a second end region of the
article.
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3. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein
said first array of stiffening elements includes a first array of embossment elements; and
said second array of stiffening elements includes a second array of embossment elements.
- 30 4. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said deformation-control member is
configured to provide at least a portion of an absorbent body.
5. An article as recited in claim 4, wherein said deformation-control member is
configured to provide at least a shaping layer portion of said absorbent body.
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6. An article as recited in claim 4, wherein
said article further includes a baffle and a liquid permeable cover; and
said absorbent body is sandwiched between said baffle and cover.

5 7. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said medial section of said deformation-
control member has a medial section width of at least a minimum of about 2 mm and not
more than about 45 mm.

8. An article as recited in claim 7, wherein said medial section of said deformation-
10 control member has a medial section length of at least a minimum of about 50 mm and not
more than about 300 mm.

9. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein
said stiffening elements have a width dimension and a relatively longer length dimension;
15 and
a majority of the stiffening elements are substantially continuous along their length.

10. An article as recited in claim 9, wherein at least some of the stiffening elements are
discontinuous.

20 11. An article as recited in claim 10, wherein the discontinuous stiffening elements are
located in an intermediate section of the article.

12. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein
25 the stiffened region provides a first fishbone array of embossment elements, and at least a
second fishbone array of embossment elements; and
the second array of embossment elements are arranged in a longitudinally opposed,
oppositely facing, counter-position relative to the first array of embossment
elements.

30 13. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein
the first array of stiffening elements have a first alignment angle which is at least a
minimum of about 15 degrees and not more than a maximum of about 75 degrees
and
35 the second array of stiffening elements have a second alignment angle which is at least a
minimum of about 15 degrees and not more than a maximum of about 75 degrees.

14. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein
the first array of stiffening elements has a first base-side section and a first
complementary-side section

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15. An article as recited in claim 14, wherein said base-side section and said
complementary-side section are substantially mirror images of each other.

16. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the stiffening elements include
10 embossment elements having a depth which provides a caliper percentage of at least a
minimum of about 25 % and not more than a maximum of about 95 %.

17. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the stiffening elements have a length which
is at least a minimum of about 10 mm and up to a maximum of about 70 mm.

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18. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the stiffening elements have a separation
distance between immediately adjacent stiffening elements, and such separation distance
is at least a minimum of about 0.5 mm and not more than a maximum of about 40 mm.

19. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the stiffening elements
are substantially linear.

20. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the stiffening elements
are substantially curvilinear.

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21. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said deformation-control member includes
an absorbent body; said absorbent body has a relatively larger shaping layer and a
relatively smaller supplemental layer; and said stiffening elements include embossment
elements located in the shaping layer.

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22. An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said supplemental layer is located
adjacent a bodyside of the shaping layer.

23. An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said supplemental layer is located
35 adjacent a garment-facing side of the shaping layer.

24. An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said absorbent body further includes a perimeter embossment located proximally adjacent at least a portion of a terminal, perimeter edge of the absorbent body.

5 25. An article as recited in claim 24, wherein said embossment elements substantially avoid intersecting the perimeter embossment.

26. An article as recited in claim 25, wherein said embossment elements include relatively outboard end sections which are curved to substantially avoid intersecting the
10 perimeter embossment.

27. An absorbent article as recited in claim 1, wherein
said deformation-control member includes an absorbent body;
said first array of stiffening elements includes a first array of embossment elements; and
15 said second array of stiffening elements includes a second array of embossment elements;
said first array of embossment elements are located a first portion of said absorbent body;
said second array of embossment elements are located on a second portion of said
absorbent body which is longitudinally opposed to said first portion of the
absorbent body,
20 the first array of embossment elements have a first embossment alignment angle which is
at least about 15 degrees and is not more than about 75 degrees.
the second array of embossment elements have a second embossment alignment angle
which is at least about 15 degrees and is not more than about 75 degrees.
the first array of embossment elements have a first base-side section and a first
25 complementary-side section, said first complementary-side section being
substantially a mirror image of said first base-side section;
the second array of embossment elements have a second base-side section and a second
complementary-side section, said second complementary-side section being
substantially a mirror image of said second base-side section;
30 said first array of embossment elements thereby having a first fishbone configuration, and
said second array of embossment elements thereby having a second fishbone
configuration which is counter-positioned relative to the first array of embossment
elements;
said first complementary-side section is laterally spaced-away from said first base-side
35 section;

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said second complementary-side section is laterally spaced-away from said second base-side section;

said first array of embossment elements avoid entering into the medial section of the absorbent body; and

- 5 said second array of embossment elements avoid entering into the medial section of the absorbent body.